

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for determining the operational status of an integrated services hub, comprising:

- 5 (a) monitoring the status of AC power to the integrated services hub; and
(b) upon detecting a failure of AC power, signaling to a user of the integrated services hub that AC power has failed.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the step monitoring the status of AC power to the integrated services hub further comprises monitoring a bit on a power supply status register.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of signaling to a user of the integrated services hub that AC power has failed further comprises playing an audible warning tone in a telephone receiver connected to the integrated services hub.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the step of playing an audible warning tone in a telephone receiver connected to the integrated services hub further comprises instructing a digital signal processor residing in the integrated services hub to generate the audible warning tone in response to an off-hook condition.

5. A method for determining the operational status of an integrated services hub, comprising:

(a) monitoring the status of a wide area network connection to the integrated services hub; and

(b) upon detecting a failure of the wide area network connection, signaling to a user of the integrated service hub that the wide area network connection has failed.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the step monitoring the status of a wide area network connection to the integrated services hub further comprises checking the status of a network status register on a line interface chip residing in the integrated service hub and connected to the wide area network.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the line interface chip further comprises a chip set.

8. The method of claim 5 wherein the step of signaling to a user of the integrated services hub that the wide area network connection has failed further comprises playing an audible warning tone in a telephone receiver connected to the integrated services hub.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the step of playing an audible warning tone in a telephone receiver connected to the integrated services hub further comprises instructing a digital signal processor residing in the integrated services hub to generate the audible warning tone in response to an off-hook condition.

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10. An apparatus for determining the operational status of an integrated services hub supporting a plurality of telephone lines, comprising:

(a) a plurality of subscriber line interface circuits (SLIC), the number of SLICs equaling the number of telephone lines, with a separate SLIC corresponding with and connected to each of
5 the telephone lines,

(b) at least one subscriber line access circuit (SLAC) connected to the SLICs to detect an off-hook condition in the telephone lines;

(c) a power monitor for monitoring the status of AC power to the integrated services hub;
and

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(d) a telephony controller, the telephony controller receiving notification from the power monitor regarding the status of AC power to the integrated services hub, the telephony controller receiving notification from the SLAC of an off-hook condition in the telephone lines, and the telephony controller activating a warning signal that AC power has failed in response to the notifications from the power monitor and the SLAC.

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11. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the warning signal is an audible warning tone played in a telephone receiver connected to the integrated services hub.

12. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the audible warning tone is generated by a digital
20 signal processor residing in the integrated services hub.

13. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the telephony controller and the power monitor are software components that run on a central processing unit.

14. An apparatus for determining the operational status of an integrated services hub supporting a plurality of telephone lines, comprising:

(a) a plurality of subscriber line interface circuits (SLIC), the number of SLICs equaling the number of telephone lines, with a separate SLIC corresponding with and connected to each of the telephone lines;

(b) at least one subscriber line access circuit (SLAC) connected to the SLICs to detect an off-hook condition in the telephone lines;

(c) a network connection monitor for monitoring the status of a wide area network connection to the integrated services hub; and

(d) a telephony controller, the telephony controller receiving notification from the network connection monitor regarding the status of the wide area network connection to the integrated services hub, the telephony controller receiving notification from the SLAC of an off-hook condition in the telephone lines, and the telephony controller activating a warning signal that the wide area network connection has failed in response to the notifications from the network connection monitor and the SLAC.

15. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the warning signal is an audible warning tone played in a telephone receiver connected to the integrated services hub.

16. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the audible warning tone is generated by a digital signal processor residing in the integrated services hub.

